

LIFE

OF

JOHN WELSH.

LIFE

JOHN WELSH,

MINISTER OF AYR:

INCLUDING

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY ECCLESIASTICAL
HISTORY OF SCOTLAND AND FRANCE.

BY THE LATE

REV. JAMES YOUNG,

EDITOR OF "THE COUNTESS OF MAR'S ARCADIA," ETC.

WITH

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

BY THE

REV. JAMES ANDERSON,

AUTHOR OF "LADIES OF THE COVENANT," ETC.

JAMES YOUNG, author of the following "Life of John Welsh," was born on the 30th of July, 1800, at Kinross, a town pleasantly situated on the north-western shore of Lochleven, and directly opposite the Castle on one of the islands in the loch, in which Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. His father, Archibald Young, was a merchant in that town, and the name of his mother was Margaret Annan. His parents were members of the Anti-Burgher Secession congregation in Kinross, and were esteemed by all who knew them for the excellence of their Christian character. His father held the office of elder in the congregation, and was a man of much shrewdness and intelligence, as well as Christian worth. They had two children, both sons: William, who made choice of the profession of medicine, and James, the subject of this sketch.

The minister under whom James was brought up was the Rev. Robert Leishman, who was ordained to the pastoral oversight of the congregation of which his parents were members in the year 1803, and who, only a few months ago, finished his course as a Christian minister with honour, at the venerable age of ninety-two.

James received the first rudiments of education at the Parish School of Kinross. When advanced so far as to be prepared for entering on the study of the Latin tongue, he was sent to the Grammar School of the neighbouring town of Dunfermline; and in that seminary, under the tuition of the late Mr Halkerston, a distinguished classical scholar and an able teacher, he made satisfactory proficiency. During this period of his life he lost his mother, who died 4th February, 1816.

In November 1818 he was matriculated a student in the University of Edinburgh; and he attended the classes during the four following sessions. In the autumn of the year 1820, before finishing his university curriculum, intending to prepare for the Christian ministry, he attended, though he was not enrolled as a student, the Divinity Hall of the General Associate (commonly called the Anti-Burgher) Synod. The theological chair of that body was at that time occupied by the Rev. (afterwards Dr) George Paxton, of whose eloquence as a lecturer and as a preacher, the writer of this sketch can speak from personal knowledge. His work entitled "Illustrations of the Holy Scriptures, from the Geography, the Natural History, and the Customs and Manners of the East," notwithstanding the great amount of new light thrown on that field of inquiry by travellers since that work was published, is still worthy of attention. And his lectures on systematic theology, constructed after the model of Francis Turretin, and other celebrated divines of the same school, pervaded by much unction, and delivered with great fervour, as well as the theological works which he recommended, at the close of each particular subject, were well adapted to guide youthful inquirers, and to train them up to an accurate and com-